REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 18, 2007. Claims 1-17 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 2, 6, 9, 12 and 13 are in independent form. Claims 1, 2, 6, 9, 12 and 13 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 3, 10, 14 and 16 have been amended as to matters of form and to ensure consistency in terminology; no change in scope is intended or believed effected by at least these changes. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 3 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, on the ground that the term "list"lacks sufficient antecedent basis. Applicant has carefully reviewed and amended Claim 3 to replace "list" with --device list formed by said forming unit--. Corresponding changes have been made to method Claim 10. It is believed that the rejection under Section 112 has been obviated and its withdrawal is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-9 and 11-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Application Publication No. 2004/0019671 (Metz).

Claims 3 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Metz in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,349,304 (Boldt).

As shown above, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 2, 6, 9, 12 and 13 in terms that more clearly define what he regards as his invention. Applicant submits that these amended independent claims, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 is directed to a network device managing apparatus including: (1) a receiving unit adapted to receive a search request of network devices and identification

information of a data processing apparatus from the data processing apparatus; (2) a searching unit adapted to search network devices in response to the search request received by the receiving unit; (3) an obtaining unit adapted to obtain a past device list associated with the identification information of the data processing apparatus received by the receiving unit, the past device list indicating a search result at the time when searched before the search by the searching unit; (4) a comparing unit adapted to compare the search result by the searching unit with the past device list obtained by the obtaining unit; (5) a forming unit adapted to specify from among the network devices searched by the searching unit the network device not presented in the past device list, and forming a device list in which the specified network device has been emphasized; and (6) a transmitting unit adapted to transmit the device list formed by the forming unit to the data processing apparatus.

Among other notable features of Claim 1 are: (1) a receiving unit adapted to receive a search request of network devices and identification information of a data processing apparatus from the data processing apparatus; (2) an obtaining unit adapted to obtain a past device list associated with the identification information of the data processing apparatus received by the receiving unit, the past device list indicating a search result at the time when searched before the search by the searching unit; (3) a comparing unit adapted to compare the search result by the searching unit with the past device list obtained by the obtaining unit; and (4) a forming unit adapted to specify from among the network devices searched by the searching unit the network device not presented in the past device list, and forming a device list in which the specified network device has been emphasized.

By virtue of the structure recited in Claim 1, the network device managing

apparatus can form not only a device list in which the specified network device has been emphasized, but also a device list corresponding to the specific data processing apparatus that requested the search. That is, since the device list is formed by comparing the search result with the past device list corresponding to the data processing apparatus that requested the search, a different device list is displayed with respect to each data processing apparatus which requests a search. For example,[1] there can be one instance where one device is newly found according to a comparison using a past device list corresponding to a first data processing apparatus and another instance where two devices are newly found according to a comparison using the past device list corresponding to a second data processing apparatus. Thus, according to the present invention as recited in Claim 1, the difference between the past search result and the requested search result is unique to, and made clear with respect to, each data processing apparatus.

Metz does not disclose the above features. Metz relates to a network managing device that periodically performs printer discovery, thus acquiring printer information such as an IP address and the like, and registers the printer information on a main list. Then, the printers registered on the main list are distributed to a filtered second list according to criteria such as specific model types, locations, capabilities, and the like. In Metz, a newly discovered printing device is discriminably displayed (608 shown in Fig. 6; paragraph [0040]). Nothing in Metz, however, teaches or suggests receiving identification information of a data processing apparatus from the data processing apparatus. Further, while the main list in Metz includes all printers that have been discovered on the network, that main list is not associated with any particular data

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1/ It is to be understood, of course, that the claim scope is not limited by the details of the described embodiments, which are referred to only to facilitate explanation.

processing apparatus. Thus, Applicant has found nothing in Metz that would teach or suggest "a receiving unit adapted to receive a search request of network devices and identification information of a data processing apparatus from the data processing apparatus," "an obtaining unit adapted to obtain a past device list associated with the identification information of the data processing apparatus received by said receiving unit, the past device list indicating a search result at the time when searched before the search by said searching unit," "a comparing unit adapted to compare the search result by said searching unit with the past device list obtained by said obtaining unit" or "a forming unit adapted to specify from among the network devices searched by said searching unit the network device not presented in the past device list," as recited in Claim 1 (emphasis added). In Metz, the results to be displayed are all the same, regardless of the data processing apparatus that requested the search, because comparison between a past device list corresponding to the data processing apparatus which requests search and the searched result is not performed.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Metz.

A review of the other art of record, including Boldt, has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against Claim 1.

Independent Claims 6 and 12 are method and program claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable over Metz for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

Claim 2 is directed to a network device managing apparatus which includes: (1) a receiving unit adapted to receive a search request of network devices and identification

information of a data processing apparatus from the data processing apparatus; (2) a searching unit adapted to search network devices in response to the search request received by the receiving unit; (3) an obtaining unit adapted to obtain a past device list associated with the identification information of the data processing apparatus received by the receiving unit, the past device list indicating a search result at the time when searched before the search by the searching unit; (3) a comparing unit adapted to compare the search result by the searching unit with the past device list obtained by the obtaining unit; (4) a forming unit adapted to specify from among the network devices searched by the searching unit the network device of which the state has been changed, and forming a device list in which the specified network device has been emphasized; and (5) a transmitting unit adapted to transmit the device list formed by the forming unit to the data processing apparatus.

For substantially the same reasons as discussed with respect to Claim 1, Applicant has found nothing in Metz that would teach or suggest "a receiving unit adapted to receive a search request of network devices and identification information of a data processing apparatus from the data processing apparatus," "an obtaining unit adapted to obtain a past device list associated with the identification information of the data processing apparatus received by said receiving unit, the past device list indicating a search result at the time when searched before the search by said searching unit," "a comparing unit adapted to compare the search result by said searching unit with the past device list obtained by said obtaining unit" or "a forming unit adapted to specify from among the network devices searched by said searching unit the network device of which the state has been changed, and forming a device list in which the specified network device has been emphasized," as recited in Claim 2.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 2 is not anticipated by Metz.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against Claim 2.

Independent Claims 9 and 13 are method and program claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 2, and are believed to be patentable over Metz for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 2.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Jennifer A. Reda/
Jennifer A. Reda
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No.: 57,840

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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